

Attorney's Docket: 2003CH007
Serial No.: 10/569,335
Art Unit: 1751

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) An aqueous mixture comprising:

- A) at least two distinct alkoxylates one alkoxylate of the formula (I)



or its their phosphoric esters,

wherein

R¹ is a linear or branched C₆-C₁₉-alkyl radical,

R² is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl, and

n has an average value of 3 to 11;

- B) at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy carboxylic acid in simple form, a polyoligo hydroxy carboxylic acid a salt of a hydroxy carboxylic acid in simple form, a salt of a polyoligo hydroxy carboxylic acid, a polyacrylate, a phosphonate, a polyacrylate salt, a phosphonate salt and mixtures thereof
- C) an aromatic sulphonation, sulphination or sulphation product or salts thereof, and
- D) an alkaline earth metal chloride or sulfate salt[.].

2. (previously presented) An aqueous mixture according to Claim 1 wherein

R¹ is a linear or branched C₈-C₁₅-alkyl radical,

R² is hydrogen or methyl,

n has an average value of 5 to 9;

B is citric acid, sodium gluconate, an α -hydroxy polyacrylate, ATMP, HEDP, DTPMPA, EDTMPA, PBTC, salts of these phosphonates or a mixture thereof,

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- C is cumenesulphonic acid, naphthalenesulphonic acid an alkali metal salt of cumenesulphonic acid, an alkali metal salt of naphthalenesulphonic acid, an ammonium salt of cumenesulphonic acid, or an ammonium salt of naphthalenesulphonic acid, and
- D is magnesium chloride, magnesium sulphate, calcium chloride or calcium sulphate.

3. (previously presented) An aqueous mixture according to Claim 1 wherein

- R¹ is a linear or branched C₁₂-C₁₅-alkyl radical,
- R² is hydrogen or methyl,
- n has an average value of 6 or 7;
- B is citric acid, sodium gluconate, DTPMPA or a mixture thereof,
- C is cumenesulphonic acid an alkali metal salt of cumenesulphonic acid or an ammonium salt of cumenesulphonic acid , and
- D is magnesium chloride or magnesium sulphate.

4. (previously presented) An aqueous mixture according to Claim 3 wherein

- B is a mixture of citric acid and sodium gluconate,
- C is sodium cumenesulphonate, and
- D is magnesium chloride.

5. (previously presented) An aqueous mixture according to Claim 1 comprising two different alkoxylates of the formula (I), A1) and A2)

A1) wherein

- R¹ is a branched C₆-C₁₄-alkyl radical,
- R² is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl, and
- n has an average value of 3 to 11;
- and
- A2) wherein
- R¹ is a linear or branched C₈-C₁₉-alkyl radical,

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R² is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl, and
n has an average value of 3 to 10.

6. (previously presented) An aqueous mixture according to Claim 5 wherein

A1) R¹ is a branched C₈-C₁₂-alkyl radical,
R² is hydrogen or methyl, and
n has an average value of 5 to 9;

and

A2) R¹ is a linear or branched C₁₀-C₁₇-alkyl radical,
R² is hydrogen or methyl,
n has an average value of 4 to 8,

B is citric acid, sodium gluconate, an α -hydroxy polyacrylate or ATMP, HEDP, DTPMPA, EDTMPA, PBTC or salts of these phosphonates or a mixture thereof,

C is cumenesulphonic acid, naphthalenesulphonic acid an alkali metal salt of cumenesulphonic acid, an alkali metal salt of naphthalenesulphonic acid, an ammonium salt of cumenesulphonic acid or an ammonium salt of naphthalenesulphonic acid, and

D is magnesium chloride, magnesium sulphate, calcium chloride or calcium sulphate.

7. (previously presented) An aqueous mixture according to Claim 5 wherein

A1) R¹ is a branched C₁₀-alkyl radical,
R² is hydrogen, and
n has an average value of 7;

and

A2) R¹ is a linear or branched C₁₂-C₁₅-alkyl radical,
R² is hydrogen,
n has an average value of 6,

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- B is citric acid, sodium gluconate, DTPMPA or a mixture thereof,
- C is cumenesulphonic acid, an alkali metal salt of cumenesulphonic acid or an ammonium salt of cumenesulphonic acid, and
- D is magnesium chloride or magnesium sulphate.

8. (previously presented) An aqueous mixture according to Claim 5 wherein

- A1) is an alkoxylate of a linear or branched C₁₀-alcohol or a mixture thereof having on average 8 ethylene oxide units and 1 propylene oxide unit, and
- A2) is an alkoxylate of a linear or branched C₁₂-C₁₅-alcohol having on average 7 ethylene oxide units,
- B is a mixture of citric acid and sodium gluconate,
- C is sodium cumenesulphonate, and
- D is magnesium chloride.

9. (previously presented) An aqueous mixture according to Claim 7 wherein

- B is a mixture of citric acid and sodium gluconate,
- C is sodium cumenesulphonate, and
- D is magnesium chloride.

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10. (previously presented) An aqueous mixture according to Claim 1, wherein said component A has a concentration of 1% to 40% by weight, said component B has a concentration of 1% to 20% by weight, said components C and D each have a concentration of 0.1% to 10% by weight, based on the aqueous mixture.
11. (previously presented) An aqueous mixture according to Claim 1, wherein the concentration of component A is 7% to 20% by weight, of component B is 2% to 10% by weight and each of components C and D is 0.4% to 5% by weight, based on the aqueous mixture.
12. (previously presented) An aqueous mixture according to Claim 1, wherein the concentration of component A is 14% to 20% by weight, of component B is 3% to 8% by weight and each of components C and D is 0.6% to 2. 5% by weight, based on the aqueous mixture.
13. (previously presented) An aqueous mixture according to Claim 1, further comprising a foam-suppressing component and a defoamer .
14. (previously presented) A textile pretreated with the aqueous mixture according to Claim 1.
15. through 27. (cancelled)